

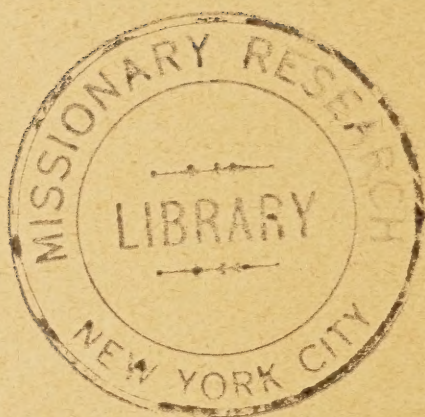
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YEAR END REPORT 1953

A Record
of what
the Churches
have done
in Inter-Church
Aid

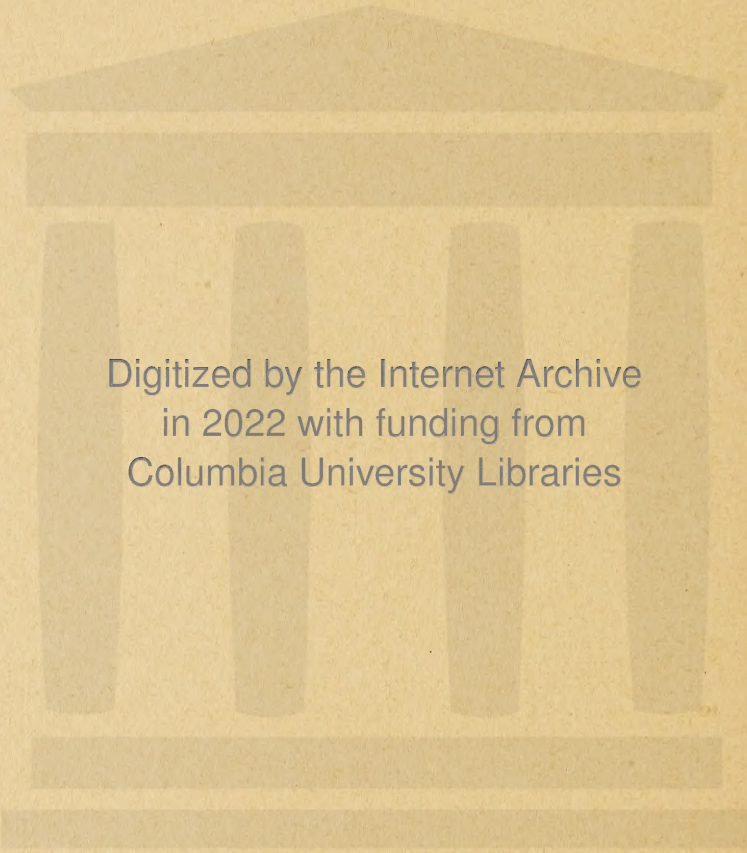
Prepared by the Department of
Inter-Church Aid and Service to
Refugees





Foreword

This report is a summary of the known facts of all that was accomplished by the churches of the world, both through the World Council's Department of ICA, and independently and directly by individual churches, ICA committees in various countries, confessional bodies and the Inter-Church Aid programme of the LWF and International Missionary Council.



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INTER-CHURCH AID 1953

A Year-end Report

"CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP: WHERE THE CRY FOR HELP IS HEARD AND HEHEDED"

In April 1953 a field worker with Korea Church World Service concluded his report with a short paragraph which sums up the spirit of inter-church aid and emergency relief in all their wide variety.

"The work in Korea is not limited to Christians, and many who receive can have no idea of what a Christian church is, nor of people joining together to offer tangible help. But at least to the many recipients who are Christians this help comes as a wonderful affirmation of the fellowship of Christian with Christian, and of the willingness to help where there is no profit or gain, and often alas no thanks, but where the cry for help is heard and heeded".

It is this mobilization of Christian resources through the churches, acting together, which made possible the distribution of 25,940 tons of food, clothing and medicaments; the establishment in new homes overseas of more than 19,000 refugee men, women and children; the sending of one million dollars in cash for emergency succour of victims of floods, earthquakes, fires and famine; and provision of more than six million dollars for Inter-Church and Inter-Mission Aid projects throughout the world during 1953.

WORLD STRATEGY

And it was a deepening sense of the necessity for a coordinated and organized affirmation of Christian fellowship which led the International Missionary Council and the World Council of Churches in 1953 to agree to a world strategy of Emergency Inter-Church Aid and Relief, to be worked out through the Department of Inter-Church Aid and Service to Refugees. It was no accident that the same year saw the founding of the Lutheran World Federation's new department of World Service, a title which is used in different forms by many churches and denominations to describe their work in response to the cries for help from fellow Christians and suffering mankind.

The duty to hear and to heed, which led the Protestant and Orthodox churches in 1953 to contribute over \$28,000,000 in every conceivable type of inter-church aid and relief has justified the assertion of the Chichester Central Committee of the World Council urged: "Inter-Church Aid is a permanent obligation of a World Council of Churches which seeks to be true to its name".

Previous Year-End Reports have dealt mainly with Inter-Church Aid, Refugee Service and Inter-Mission Aid for European churches. The account which follows is a first attempt to survey, on a world scale, what was done by all the churches in a given year. It is incomplete for a variety of reasons. But the presentation of such a report is itself an affirmation of the fellowship of Christian with Christian. It is hoped that it will serve as the basis for formulation of a more adequate total strategy of inter-church aid, refugee service and relief.

The meaning of statistics.

The statistical summary in section III, although making no claims to complete accuracy, does give a picture of what is known of the response of the churches to the needs of 1953. We know that in the ecumenical fellowship the value of total giving amounted to at least \$28,000,000 for the needs of refugees, the sick, the orphans, the homeless and in a host of projects through which the churches joined to strengthen one another in reconstruction and the creation of new life and forms of witness.

Statistics can be misleading in more ways than one. It should never be forgotten that the projects summed up in these figures were made possible only because of the on-going life and work of the churches themselves. It is the daily witness of congregations which has made these resources available. And it is the consecration of other congregations which made possible the carrying out of these programmes. The total figures for 1953 are impressive simply because they represent the shared labour and prayer of the whole Christian family in the witness of Christ's people to these areas of need. Thus the totals for 1953 cannot become a source of false pride -- too many cries for help went unheard and unheeded. But they are cause for rejoicing in that they demonstrate the extent to which inter-church aid has in fact become a permanent obligation of the churches.

The following report is divided into three sections. The first gives a few high-lights of the year. The second is a short running commentary on certain aspects of what was done. And the third is a statistical summary of what the various churches have contributed, under four sub-headings: a) Inter-Church Aid, Emergency Inter-Church Aid and Relief, Near East Programme and Inter-Mission Aid, b) Service to Refugees, c) Contributed Goods, and d) an Income Summary.

I. - SOME HIGH-LIGHTS OF 1953

***** 1953 was a year of emergencies. In addition to thousands of tons of food, clothing and medicaments over a million dollars was sent for flood victims in Holland, Great Britain, Japan and Italy; to earthquake disasters in Greece and Cyprus; to relieve drought, flood and famine in India and Pakistan; and to help with ravages of fires in Hong Kong and Pusan. *****

***** Although the tragic plight of almost 900,000 Arab refugees remained unsolved, coordinated church giving through the Near East Christian Council's Refugee Committee increased in volume. \$217,000 was spent through the central budget, 2,826 tons of relief goods were distributed, and \$1,057,000 was administered by over 20 church, mission and YM-YWCA agencies in help which ranged from feeding stations and hospitals to schools and training of welfare workers *****

***** For the first time the cooperative Service Programme of the Department was fully supported as budgeted. \$660,000 was contributed by twenty-three churches and church councils, of which \$76,000 came from countries outside the United States. In addition a special gift from American churches through Church World Service helped the WCC Service to Refugees to discharge its responsibilities for unforeseen burdens, without a deficit *****

***** The cry of children did not go unheard or unheeded. It is not always realized how great a proportion of the world's suffering is endured by the young. In the Near East 400,000 of the Arab refugees are under sixteen years of age. In Korea half the 20,000 amputees are children. There are 125,000 orphans and one million fatherless. A high proportion of the refugees in Germany and Austria are unaccompanied youth. Consequently much ICA in 1953 went for children's welfare, orphanages, schools, clinics, kindergartens, amputee programmes, reunion of families, apprentice homes, etc. Church agencies secured hundreds of thousands of dollars for refugee youth from the Ford Foundation *****

***** Over 19,000 refugees were resettled from 12 European and 8 Asiatic countries in Canada, Brazil, Australia, the USA, 9 other Latin America countries, 14 countries of Europe and 13 in other continents. Greatest number came from Germany, Hong Kong, Austria, Greece and Trieste. *****

*****\$18,000,000 worth of food, clothing and medical supplies was shipped and distributed among refugees, church workers, and church welfare institutions in Europe, Asia and the Near East. Thanks to the generosity of churches in the USA, and to availability of government surplus supplies of milk, butter and cheese, the amount shipped for Europe, for example, totalled \$10,240,000, as compared with approximately \$4,000,000 in 1952. *****

***** Church service to refugee agencies led in securing a substantial grant from the Ford Foundation, administered under the trusteeship of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. More than 60 refugee projects in Europe benefitted from grants through the WCC and LWS amounting to nearly \$1,000,000. Matching contributions from churches and governments multiplied these grants two and one half times. Over one hundred thousand refugees were directly or indirectly helped. *****

***** 1953 was a year of crises in the refugee world. 300,000 fled through Berlin. Sudden political developments produced panic among refugees at Trieste. European refugees in China faced unbearable pressures. Earthquakes in Greece made thousands of new refugees. The German churches, with emergency help from fellow churches abroad stepped up staff, welfare and counselling centres for Berlin refugees, while world wide cooperation in the Services to Refugees multiplied resettlement opportunities for those caught in Trieste, China and Greece. *****

***** On May 29th, by agreement between the International Missionary Council and the World Council of Churches, the Department became responsible for coordinating and commending to the churches a total programme of Emergency Inter-Church Aid and Relief in all countries. Plans were made for adding to assistance already long-established from North American churches through Church World Service for Korea, Indonesia, India, Pakistan and Hong Kong by contributions from Great Britain, Australia, New Zealand, Germany, Sweden, Denmark, Switzerland. *****

***** During the year several hundred members of refugee service staffs in 40 countries -- one thousand work campers -- eighty fraternal workers in Europe -- hundred and ten ecumenical scholarship students -- and hundreds of church executives and workers in national inter-church aid and relief offices -- were themselves living embodiments of Christian fellowship, deeply involved in hearing and heeding the cries for help.*****

***** \$17,260 was raised in the World Youth Projects Programme of the Youth Departments of the World Council and the World Council of Christian Education, chiefly by youth groups of six countries for aid to Christian youth work in sixteen areas of Europe, Asia and Africa. *****

II. - HOW ICA WAS DISTRIBUTED IN 1953

INTER-CHURCH AID IN EUROPE

Reconstruction and Emergencies

Of the total \$5,100,000 given for ICA and relief projects, \$1,486,000 was spent in Germany, chiefly to help the Evangelical Church to meet the emergency needs created in 1953 by the influx of 300,000 new refugees through Berlin and the difficult circumstances of the churches in the East Zone. The German churches in the West Zone themselves contributed \$595,000 of this total and also provided the personnel and organisation to staff new church centres in Berlin and the West, established with help from a dozen countries. The variety and extent of the aid which it has distributed from abroad is illustrated by the fact that from 1946 through March of 1954 109,080 tons of relief goods were given by 62 different churches and church agencies of 18 countries. Unfortunately there is no cessation of emergency needs in Berlin and the East Zone, and continued ecumenical participation will be required on a major scale in 1954-55. 400 refugees still cross the frontier daily, while behind it pastors and church workers remain at their posts in spite of growing hardship.

In Greece and Yugoslavia reconstruction and emergency needs exist for very different reasons. Yugoslavia still suffers not only from the devastation wrought by the war but also from the cumulative effect of a series of bad harvests. As a result the ICA gifts for Orthodox and Evangelical churches, listed in the statistical section were supplemented in 1953 by supplies of food, clothing and medicine from Church World Service and Lutheran World Relief valued at \$1,320,400.

For Greece, the earthquakes in the Ionian Isles and Thessaly meant a sudden retreat from what the Church of Greece had hoped would be the end of emergency and relief situations. Churches in Sweden, the United States, Britain, Canada, Australia, Germany, New Zealand joined in raising what is now over \$140,000 for earthquake relief, reconstruction of churches, hospitals, orphanages. Increased supplies through Church World Service in response to news of the earthquakes swelled the value of food and clothing contributed to Greece to over \$725,000. During 1953 ICA projects, which totalled \$220,000, were supported by the Protestant Episcopal, Disciples, Presbyterian USA, Congregational, Swiss and British churches. The Inter-Church Service in Greek Villages, an agricultural witness to depressed northern Greek villagers, is a continuing reconstruction project, in which a remarkable group of

churches cooperate: Brethren, Disciples, Evangelical and Reformed, Presbyterian, Lutheran, Mennonite, Baptist, Evangelical United Brethren, Church World Service, the Canadian, Swedish, British and Dutch churches.

Renewal of Church Life

The World Council has stated that "inter-church aid exists to further on an ecumenical basis the renewal of the churches through practical help which the churches may render one another." War and natural disaster are not the only reason why churches should help one another. And much of the ICA reported in section III for Germany, Greece and Yugoslavia was given to strengthen new experiments in evangelism; the training of church workers, catechists and deaconesses; laymen's work, literature and publications. Largest contribution to predominantly Lutheran Germany came from the LWF-WS (\$410,000*). Gifts from Presbyterian, Evangelical and Reformed, Congregational, Baptist, Methodist, Disciples, Protestant Episcopal, Moravian, the Swiss, Scandinavian, British and from West German churches for the East, added to the ecumenical character of the aid.

Truly ecumenical sharing was also demonstrated by Protestant Episcopal, Disciples, Presbyterian aid for the Church of Greece and the Serbian Orthodox Church of Yugoslavia. Lutheran, Reformed, Presbyterian and Swiss churches joined in supporting the Evangelical churches in these lands.

\$475,000 was given for extension and renewal of Christian witness of the minority evangelical churches in France and Belgium, Austria and Italy, Spain and Portugal. Aid came chiefly from the Swiss Church (\$128,000) and the Presbyterian Churches USA and US (\$123,000) which together with gifts from LWF-WS, Congregational, Swedish, Baptist, Canadian, Norwegian and Protestant Episcopal churches made up the total. Church World Service contributed over \$28,000 for material relief distribution and projects in these countries.

In Austria the refugee services of the LWF-WS, WCC, and The Brethren Service Commission gave substantial aid for meeting the refugee problem, still far beyond the resources of the church. Congregational centres at Naples in Italy, and Le Chambon in France, and the long-range planning for support of the Spanish Church by the Presbyterian Church USA were significant examples of ICA. The opening of a new church in Barcelona, the establishment of a legal bureau for counsel on questions of religious liberty in Italy, opening of two new evangelism posts and a training centre for teachers of religion in Belgium, and the maintenance of the far-flung evangelistic and refugee work of CIMADE in France were some of the ways in which aid from several churches abroad helped these churches undertake missionary tasks which would otherwise have been postponed for lack of resources.

* LWF-WS ICA figures are for an eight month period.

Nor was European ICA confined by political divisions in 1953. Gifts from Presbyterian Church USA, Baptist and Swiss churches were transferred for church institutions, training and literature programmes for the church in Hungary. Small gifts for Poland, Finland, Czechoslovakia, Rumania and Bulgaria and packets of medical supplies to church workers in all these East European churches carried the message of the ecumenical fellowship.

As in previous years an outstanding piece of ecumenical aid was the assistance mobilized for Old Catholic and Orthodox in the West Churches, lacking 'sister churches' to help. Led by the Protestant Episcopal Church, Presbyterian, Disciples, Swedish, Congregational, Canadian, Australian and British gifts, support through the WCC Service to Refugees, and material aid through CWS provided thousands of dollars for welfare and church life of these groups in Western Europe.

COOPERATIVE ACTION: THE SERVICE PROGRAMME

The work of the Service Programme of the Department is approved by the Central Committee of the World Council, and its services for refugees, the health of church workers, scholarships, fraternal workers, work camps are carried out in the name of the member churches as ICA projects which are best done cooperatively. The Service Programme budget for 1953 was over-subscribed by \$2,000, for the first time in its history.

Under the Health Programme 30 European pastors and church leaders received special treatment in hospitals and sanatoria; 200 others had rest periods at the ecumenical rest centre of Casa Locarno. Nearly \$5,000 was expended for 1,000 separate orders of medical supplies to individual church workers chiefly in Eastern Europe.

Theological Scholarships were awarded in 1953 to 108 students from 24 countries of Europe, Asia, North and South America. They came from 15 different denominations and confessions and are studying in 11 countries.

Twenty-seven WCC Youth Work Camps were held in 15 countries including Lebanon, Puerto Rico, Thailand, the Philippines, Malaya, Japan, Italy, Holland, Germany, France, England, Austria, Cyprus, Greece, Sweden and the USA. Initiated by the Congregational Christian Service Committee after the war, they are carried out by the Youth Department under a WCC Committee made up of representatives of the Youth and ICA Departments of the WCC. Since its beginning over 100 camps have been held in 20 countries and 4,000 young people from 40 countries have given their vacations to work with youth of other lands in building refugee homes, churches, youth centres, etc.

Eighty Fraternal Workers from 10 countries and 11 communions engaged in refugee work, theological teaching, religious education, student and youth work, social welfare and institutional tasks, agricultural rehabilitation, earthquake relief and parish work. A "Mobile

Service Team" carried out seven projects during the year, assisting in repairs of refugee homes in France and Belgium, a Youth Centre in Austria, and relief work in the flood areas of Holland. The Presbyterian Church USA made possible the sending of one Fraternal Worker from France to the United States, to engage in student work. Lutheran Churches continued their exchange of pastors and church leaders between Germany and the USA, and the Brethren Service Commission its exchange of teen-aged youth. An Annual Conference of Fraternal Workers in Geneva and a regional retreat in Greece were features of the year.

The scope of the Service to Refugee programme is depicted statistically in section III b. The figures include the work of the LWF-WS refugee service, as well as that of the WCC under the Department's Service Programme. It should be noted that the maintenance of a church sponsored refugee service, costing close to one million dollars for the WCC, LWF-WS and the YM-YWCA operations together, led in 1953 to contributions from non-church sources of a further five million dollars. When it is recalled that some \$9,000,000 of the contributed supplies of food, clothing and medicaments are distributed to refugees, the importance of this particular form of ICA is clearly seen. 8,881 refugees were resettled under the WCC Service Programme in 1953. The number compares favourably with the total resettled individually in 1952. Although the 1952 figure was 10,064, more than 8,000 of these were immigrants to the USA on a mass quota arrangement under the Displaced Persons Act. Most of the 1953 group emigrated to new countries on an individual basis, that is with the Service to Refugees preparing individual dossiers on each family, making their travel arrangements with the Migration Committee, and giving them travel loans to cover costs of transportation.

During 1953 WCC Service to Refugee offices were expanded so that there are now field workers in 22 countries, and correspondents in another 19 countries. The operation of travel loan funds, supported with grants from the Inter-Governmental Committee for European Migration, proved highly successful. Loans are made to refugees for travel costs, to be repaid after the migrant is established in his new homeland. WCC moved 4,064 (in 1952: 1,068) refugees on these revolving loan funds, from 20 countries all over the world, to 42 other countries. LWF-WS moved 5,439 (in 1952: 2,610) migrants, 5,000 of them from Germany, the balance from Austria, Trieste, Italy and England, to Canada, USA, Australia, Latin America, South Africa, France and Sweden.

But resettlement was only one aspect of refugee service in 1953. For every refugee actually resettled WCC staff interviewed, advised and assisted many others who are unable to migrate. Welfare and rehabilitation programmes ranging from direct relief, language classes, vocational training, to anti-TB projects and establishment of homes for the aged were carried out in Germany, Austria, Trieste, France, Belgium, Italy, Greece, Turkey, Hong Kong and the Near East. 245 aged refugees were successfully placed in homes for the aged thanks to co-operation from churches in Norway, Belgium, Sweden, Switzerland, Italy

and France. Distribution of the large-scale shipments of food and clothing, in cooperation with national churches, has already been mentioned. In addition, in China, Turkey, Ethiopia, the Near East, Greece, Italy, Austria and Germany the WCC Service to Refugees was made trustee of funds from the International Refugee Organization, for care of the most needy refugees formerly under the care of IRO.

Nearly one million dollars was the share of LWF-WS and WCC in the Ford Foundation grant through the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, secured as a result of a joint submission by six of the voluntary agencies working for refugees. The funds were administered in 1953 for projects in the countries listed in section III b, primarily to assist in the social assimilation and economic integration of refugees. Projects ranged from provision of housing facilities, apprenticeship and vocational training, medical rehabilitation, agricultural schemes, trade schools, garden communities, youth and student centres -- to kindergartens, scholarships, centres for retarded children, education, and counselling and aid for assimilation in countries of final asylum.

Support of pastoral services of churches-in-exile was a major emphasis in 1953, as in previous years. Upwards of one hundred priests and pastors received direct aid and plans were laid for a review of the whole situation of refugee churches and their future. Significance of this type of help is seen in the increase of Orthodox churches in South America from ten to thirty-one since 1948, due to influx of new migrants. While refugee service funds were used mainly for support of spiritual ministries in camps and among refugees in West Europe, small grants were made to enable these new churches to get started.

The fact-finding and representation functions of the staff proved especially important in 1953 for refugees in China, Trieste, Berlin, Greece, Ethiopia, Egypt, Turkey and Iran. Each situation was different, but WCC staff was able to provide information as to the facts of refugee problems, on the one hand, and the possibilities of solution on the other, to the UN High Commissioner and to the inter-governmental and governmental bodies involved. The registration of refugees, the negotiation for visas, transportation and welfare costs, the setting up of rehabilitation projects and homes -- were all part of one continuous process of vigilant protection and care for Protestant and Orthodox refugees.

Theological Literature

Another cooperative service rendered by the Department in 1953 was the purchase and dispatch of 1000 basic theological books and 170 periodicals to theological faculties in Eastern Europe. Some went also to Greece, Germany, Belgium and Korea. One theological teacher writes from East Europe: "This literature is unattainable for us, and yet it is as the air we need in order to live. May our Lord bless

you for this." These shipments, in the name of all the churches were, like the much larger programmes operated by the Department, very precious affirmations of the fellowship of Christian with Christian during 1953.

Ecumenical Staff Service

For all of this work an ecumenical staff is maintained. \$81,700 was required in 1953 for administration, information and publicity, representation and liaison with other bodies, accounting, direction of programmes and contact with the churches, conferences and meetings, and for the development of a total strategy of ICA, refugee service and relief. One hundred delegates and staff met in October for the Annual Consultation of the Department. Participants came from 29 countries and territories, from Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Australia, Lebanon, New Zealand, Syria, South America, as well as from most European countries and churches.

CONTRIBUTED GOODS

1953 was a record year for the material relief programmes of the churches. Altogether some 25,946 tons of food, clothing and medical supplies valued at \$18,000,000 were collected and shipped to distress areas in Europe, Asia and the Near East and Africa. Details are shown in section III c. From the USA Church World Service sent nearly 30 million pounds of materials valued conservatively at \$9,700,000, due to cooperation of 36 Protestant and Orthodox communions. Over half the materials were secured in allocations of government surplus commodities, the balance through collections by the churches through CWS, including CWS-CROP. Ten per cent of the CWS shipments were made on behalf of denominational boards, the Heifer Project and other CWS-related agencies. CWS maintains five service centres for collection and processing of clothing and other relief supplies, three of them in cooperation with the Brethren Service Commission and the Congregational Christian Service Commission.

Also from the USA nearly \$7,500,000 in material relief came through Lutheran World Relief. This total of almost 22,000,000 pounds also included thousands of tons of surplus commodities, dried milk, butter and cheese. The materials were collected from Lutheran congregations, processed in six warehouses, and forwarded in cooperation with LWF-WS and the Commission on Younger Churches and Orphan Mission of the National Lutheran Council. Other countries, notably Switzerland, Norway and Denmark, Canada, Britain and New Zealand were responsible for clothing and food shipments amounting to 1,739,677 lbs., valued at \$819,387.

It is noteworthy that even without the enormous contributions of government surplus commodities American churches relief shipments overseas this year exceeded those for any of the previous five

years. The surplus commodities while furnished to the churches free for distribution abroad required funds for shipping and distribution, e.g. CWS costs for these purposes alone amounted to nearly \$400,000. The contributed goods statistics do not include administrative expenses of CWS or LWF for processing or inland transportation for the clothing, medicines, meat, cotton, flour, milk, rice, sugar, wheat, beans, dried fruit, jams, baby food, corn, syrup, oil, relief cereal, soap, heifers, chicks, bedding, linen, first aid kits, and a dozen and one other materials included in the 1953 programmes. Substantial help is received in the form of government reimbursement of ocean freight charges.

INTER-MISSION AID

Assistance to Orphaned Missions continued in 1953. Through the International Missionary Society \$98,952 was given for work of German, Paris and Oegstgeest Mission Societies. Through the Lutheran World Federation Department of World Missions Scandinavian Mission Societies provided \$111,595 for work in Africa, India and Japan. The National Lutheran Council (LWF) Commission on Younger Churches and Orphaned Missions contributed \$643,947 for Africa, China, the Holy Land, Indonesia and New Guinea.

EMERGENCY INTER-CHURCH AID AND RELIEF

Palestine Refugees

Although the Department's mandate to coordinate and commend to the churches a total programme of inter-church aid and relief on behalf of both the IMC and the WCC took effect only from May of 1953, coordination of work for Palestine refugees has been going on since the Beirut Conference two years earlier. The Beirut Conference, called by the two bodies jointly has focused church opinion on the needs of Arab refugees, and has resulted in a considerable increase in the volume of assistance rendered, from all sources. The secretariat of the Near East Christian Council's Refugee Committee is maintained by church funds secured through the Department. Under the direction of this committee funds amounting to \$217,000 were expended for refugee & inter-church aid through local committees in East and West Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Gaza, Egypt and Israel. In addition, grants in ICA for the ancient churches of the East in that area were made possible by gifts from the Protestant Episcopal and other churches. The work of the NECC's Committee was chiefly sustained by American churches through Church World Service, to which were added contributions from Great Britain, Australia, Canada and New Zealand.

An important function of the NECC's Committee for Refugees is to assist with the coordination of the endeavours of more than a

score of Christian Voluntary Agencies (CVA's) * which cooperate in the whole range of welfare, vocational training, educational, hospital, orphanage and other services. In addition to the \$217,000 spent through the central budget of the NECC Committee, and exclusive of material relief goods, \$1,057,000 was contributed for the programme of the CVA's. Total value of supplies of food, clothing, medicaments shipped by CWS and NLC from the USA, and from Britain, Canada, New Zealand, Scandinavia, amounted to \$2,181,000. These goods plus other help from inter-governmental bodies were administered by the CVA's and the NECC Committee itself.

In round figures some \$3,500,000 was given in 1953 in all forms of aid to Palestine refugees. Their position is unimproved, however, and as one report put it 'births exceed deaths'. Nearly half the 880,000 Palestine refugees are children or youth, and problems of education, family life and morals grow worse, adding to the physical and spiritual misery they have endured for nearly six years.

The Korean Emergency

With the signing of the cease-fire agreement American churches through Church World Service, and the Australian, Canadian and New Zealand churches began to increase their already considerable support for relief and rehabilitation work administered through the Korea Church World Service Committee of the Korean Council of Churches. Towards the end of the year gifts were added from Great Britain, and other European churches. A total of \$2,500,000 was contributed in 1953, \$346,000 in funds and the balance in material supplies.

Projects have been concentrated on help for children, widows, orphans, amputees and a variety of self-help schemes to enable some at least of the suffering to re-establish themselves and their homes. Forty-five percent of the population are in need of aid. One reporter wrote "I find it quite impossible to illustrate the agony of Korea statistically".

Visits by WCC and CWS staff during the year, and the arrival of new staff members from the United States, Canada and Britain to work with Korea Church World Service laid the foundation for increased aid in 1954. Church World Service in the USA plans to double its contribution and considerable new help is assured from American, British and European churches. Although large-scale inter-governmental and military assistance is nursing the Korean economy back to life, the vast ocean of

* These include Lutheran World Federation, the American Friends, Presbyterian USA Mission, Arab Evangelical Episcopal, the Armenian Patriarchate of Jerusalem, British Syrian-Lebanese Mission, Church Missionary Society, CCSC, Edinburgh Medical Missionary Society, Coptic and Greek Orthodox Churches, Jerusalem Bishopric Anglican, Mennonite Central Committee, YWCA, YMCA, Syrian Orthodox Church and a several inter-denominational committees and other groups operating orphanages and welfare centres.

human suffering endured by millions and the courageous struggle of the Korean Church constitutes an inescapable challenge to the Christian churches throughout the world.

BEGINNING OF AN ASIAN PROGRAMME

During 1953 \$8,900,000 in funds and supplies were contributed by the churches for emergency inter-church aid and relief in the Near East (\$3,500,000), in Korea (\$2,500,000) and in other countries and areas of Asia and Africa (\$2,900,000). \$4,562,000 of this amount came from American churches through Church World Service. An additional \$855,000 was expended in Inter-Mission Aid in these areas. The Service to Refugees was deeply involved in work for European refugees in China through Hong Kong and in cooperation with the National Council of Churches of India, in aiding Kazakh refugees to be resettled from Pakistan to Turkey. Needs occasioned by floods and drought in India, Pakistan, Japan, by fire in Pusan and Hong Kong, by war's aftermath in Indonesia, by the helplessness of 300,000 Chinese refugees in Hong Kong -- all evoked responses from church and mission bodies. For example, a sum of \$34,000 was raised in Sweden for a well-drilling project in South India. CWS began relief and a housing project for Chinese refugees in Hong Kong. During 1954 resources from the Department's Service Programme have been allocated for widening the basis of support for Asian projects, for expenditure of cooperatively raised funds on Asian programmes, and for developing a first draft of an ecumenical plan for meeting the great emergency needs of churches and people in Asia.

C O N C L U S I O N

Whatever strategy is evolved for 1955-56, it is clear from the preceding pages that during 1953 cries for help were heard and heeded by the churches. Writing of one gift which came in 1953 an Indonesian church leader said: "The new church at Ambon was dedicated May 9. One part of the window has the WCC emblem, the ecumenical ship. The motor-sailing vessel which the Maluhu Church was able to buy with ecumenical help was baptized in March. They named it "Oikumene"." The essential point about this Inter-Church Aid record for 1953 is not so much the totals of funds and goods but the fact that there does exist such a common responsibility of a world-wide character, such a practical definition and demonstration of the meaning of ecumenical.

